



July 24, 2024

MEMO TO : Park Board Commissioners
FROM : Acting General Manager, Vancouver Board of Parks and Recreation
SUBJECT : Emerald Ash Borer in Vancouver – Board Briefing Memo

Hello Commissioners,

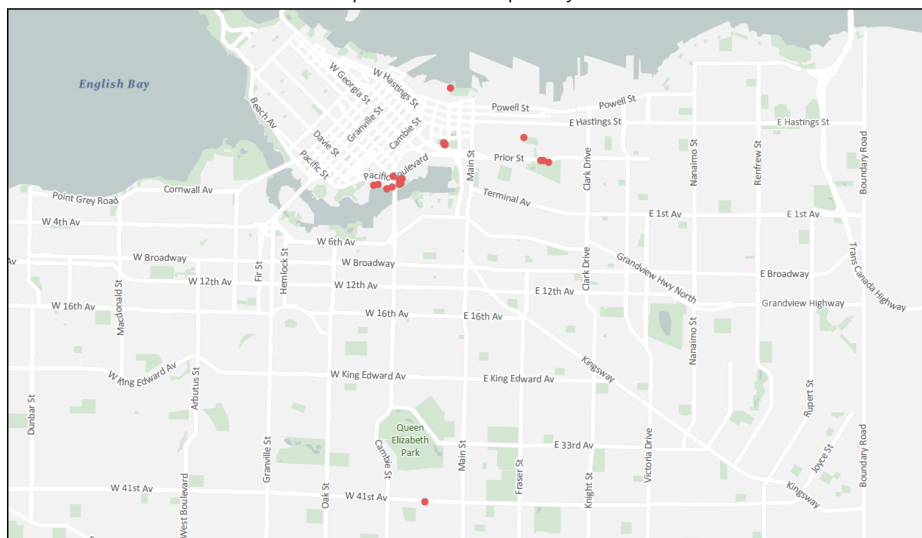
Subsequent to the Canadian Food Inspection Agency (CFIA) letters issued to both Park Board Commissioners and City Council dated July 18, 2024, this is intended to be an update on behalf of Urban Forestry.

The emerald ash borer (EAB), Agrilus planipennis, is a highly destructive invasive beetle first detected in North America in 2002 that attacks and kills all species of ash in the genus Fraxinus. It has since spread to 30 states and 6 provinces. EAB kills over 90 percent of ash trees within a few years in a new area and has cost hundred of millions in environmental and economic damage.

Municipalities in our eastern provinces have suffered catastrophic losses from EAB. However, it is possible to slow tree mortality due to EAB and even protect selected healthy ash trees. These municipalities have been using a combination of targeted removals of declining ash trees and biennial treatments of suitable healthy trees using a low toxicity injectable insecticide.

After an adult EAB was discovered in Vancouver in summer 2023, the CFIA and Urban Forestry staff have been working together to sample ash trees in Vancouver. Unfortunately, EAB was found in public ash trees in March 2024. As of today, EAB has been confirmed in 29 trees so far (see map).

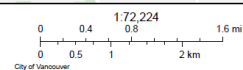
EAB positive Tree Map - July 2024



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Ash Trees

• Positive





### Key Impacts:

- **Potential Ash Tree Loss:** There are over 8,100 ash trees inventoried on public lands (including 765 park trees). This represents just under 5% of our public tree inventory. Unfortunately, we do not know how many more ash trees are in the city on public lands not managed by Urban Forestry and on private properties.
- **Potential Mass Removals:** It is estimated that an ash tree will die in 1-3 years after infestation. Mass ash tree death may occur if no treatment is applied, resulting in an overwhelming amount of hazard removals all at once.
- **EAB Treatments:** Azadirachtin is a low toxicity injectable insecticide registered in Canada against EAB. Repeated every two years, it has been effective at protecting healthy ash trees.
- **Operational Impacts:** As EAB is a federally regulated pest, the CFIA has restricted the movement of all ash material out of the EAB regulated area (Vancouver). CFIA Directive D-03-08 defines what additional steps will be needed to remove the risk of spreading EAB further when pruning, removing, or disposing of ash trees in Vancouver.

### Next Steps

Urban Forestry will continue to develop an EAB response plan for public trees, which will include options for EAB monitoring, removals, disposal, replacements, treatment, and communication. We will also work with internal and external partners for options available to assist private property owners with the potential impacts of EAB on private trees. Staff will report back before the end of Q4 2024 on the status of EAB, response plan options and any anticipated costs to support ongoing plan implementation.

Regards,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Steve Kellock".

Steve Kellock  
Acting General Manager - Vancouver Board of Parks and Recreation

sd/vt

Copy to: City Manager's Office  
PB Senior Leadership Team  
PB Communications